

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 05020 261700Z

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R 261615Z JUL 76 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7971
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AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LISBON 5020

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, PFOR, MT, IS

SUBJ: NEW ISRAELI AMBASSADOR TO MALTA

REF: VALLETTA 0838

1. BIOGRAPHIC: RAPHAEL MIGDAL SERVED AS CONSUL GENERAL IN LISBON FROM 1972 UNTIL HIS ASSIGNMENT TO VALLETTA. HE WAS BORN IN ITALY IN 1914 AND HAS A LAW DEGREE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MODENA. AMBASSADOR MIGDAL STUDIED LAW AND ECONOMICS IN PISA AND BOLOGNA, AND LATER STUDIED AT THE SORBONNE. DURING 1941-46 HE SERVED IN THE PALESTINIAN UNIT OF BRITISH ARMY. MIGDAL ENTERED THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE IN 1948 AND IN 1950 WAS ASSIGNED AS FINANCIAL ATTACHE TO THE ISRAELI EMBASSY IN ROME. HE LATER SERVED AS LEGAL OFFICER IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY (1951-57), FIRST SECRETARY IN THE HAGUE (1958-59), CONSUL GENERAL IN AMSTERDAM (1959-60), AND CONSUL GENERAL IN PARIS (1961-62). FROM 1963 UNTIL HIS ARRIVAL IN LISBON, HE WAS DIRECTOR OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S LEGAL DEPARTMENT. HE ALSO TAUGHT LAW AT THE TEL AVIV LAW SCHOOL. MR. MIGDAL IS THE AUTHOR OF A BOOK ON ISRAELI NATIONALITY LAW.

2. PERSONAL: AMBASSADOR MIGDAL IS MARRIED, HAS A SON ABOUT 13, AND TWO DAUGHTERS IN THEIR TWENTIES - AT LEAST
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PAGE 02 LISBON 05020 261700Z

ONE OF WHOM SERVED IN THE ISRAELI ARMY. WHILE IN LISBON,

HE HELD THE PERSONAL RANK OF MINISTER, MR. MIGDAL SPEAKS
FLUENT FRENCH AND ENGLISH; HE MAINTAINED REGULAR CONTACT
WITH AMERICAN EMBASSY, LISBON. HE WAS NOT PARTICULARLY
ACTIVE IN PORTUGUESE POLITICAL AND DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES.
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